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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/608,784	Applicant(s) STEINBERG ET AL.
	Examiner KATHLEEN S. YUAN	Art Unit 2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2009.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-15,22-33,41-55,63-73 and 81-112 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-15,22-33,41-55,63-73 and 81-112 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The response received on 4/15/2009 has been placed in the file and was considered by the examiner. An action on the merit follows.

Response to Amendment

1. The amendments filed on 18 March 2009 have been fully considered. Response to these amendments is provided below.

Summary of Amendment/ Arguments and Examiner's Response:

2. The applicant has amended in new limitations and has argued that prior art does not teach the new limitations.
3. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Takei teaches subsampling the image because the images is divided into 12 areas, thus subsampled from the sample image, as explained below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

5. Claims 1, 23, 85 and 92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. Supreme Court precedent¹ and recent

¹ *Diamond v. Diehr*, 450 U.S. 175, 184 (1981); *Parker v. Flook*, 437 U.S. 584, 588 n.9 (1978); *Gottschalk v. Benson*, 409 U.S. 63, 70 (1972); *Cochrane v. Deener*, 94 U.S. 780, 787-88 (1876).

Federal Circuit decisions² indicate that a statutory "process" under 35 U.S.C. 101 must (1) be tied to an apparatus or a machine or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or material) to a different state or thing. While the instant claim(s) recite a series of steps or acts to be performed, the claim(s) neither transform underlying subject matter nor positively tie to another statutory category that accomplishes the claimed method steps, and therefore do not qualify as a statutory process. Furthermore, the tie must be meaningful. A machine tied only to an intended use statement or to insignificant pre or post solution activity is not a meaningful tie. The tie must be in relation to a step or steps that are significant to the invention, or basic inventive concept. For example, the claims recite that the method is carried out by a processor, but does so in the preamble. Since the preamble is not given patentable weight because it does not breathe life or vitality into the claims, the amendment is not sufficient to overcome this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
7. Claims 85-105 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

² *In re Bilski*, 88 USPQ2d 1385 (Fed. Cir. 2008).

8. Claims 85 and 92 recite a processor twice in the preamble. It is unclear if the applicant is referring to the same processor or claiming another processor.

Information Disclosure Statement

9. Due to the disproportionate amount of references cited in the IDS dated 4/15/2009, 5/29/2009, and 6/1/2009, the examiner has attempted to consider all the references. However, the pages with lined out references/ crossed out pages have not been considered because the references, in particular, the foreign and non patent references cannot be found. If the page is crossed out, yet there are a few references initialed, only the initialed references on the crossed out pages have been considered. If the applicant would like those references to be considered, please file an IDS with copies of all the references on the same date, or provide a explanation of relevance regarding these references on the same date, *without any repeated* references in the IDS.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

11. Claims 1 and 85 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable by U.S. Patent No. 5353058 (Takei).

12. Regarding claim 1, Takei discloses a method of generating on a processor-based digital image acquisition device one or more new digital still images using an original digitally-acquired still image including a face, comprising: (a) identifying one or more groups of pixels that correspond to a face within a foreground region of the original digitally-acquired still image by identifying which groups of pixels/ areas have flesh colored regions that correspond to a face within a foreground region (fig. 11A, col. 9, lines 29-32) wherein the identifying comprises sub-sampling of the image to reduce the number of pixels on which computations are performed, by dividing/ subsampling the image into 12 areas (col. 9, lines 29-31) and to permit face detection in real time since the exposure control is done in the camera automatically and maintained throughout all times (col. 1, lines 11-15); (b) calculating a degree to which exposure of the face in the foreground within said image differs from a desired exposure of said face by finding the correction signal that corrects the values to obtain the appropriate exposure (col. 9, lines 30-35) within said image, including determining that said face lacks the desired exposure as being shadowed or shot with back light or otherwise insufficiently illuminated during acquisition (col. 9, lines 30-31), (c) based on the identifying of the one or more groups of pixels that correspond to said face and on the degree as a result of the calculating, selecting a portion of the original still image for processing to include the one or more groups of pixels, the pixels of flesh color (col. 9, lines 40-60); and (d) automatically generating values of pixels of one new still image based on the selected portion in a manner which always includes the face within the one or more new still images which differ from the original digitally-acquired still image by including at least

one group of pixels modified at least in luminance of the face, the pixels of the face, including applying a digital fill flash to add light and to boost the luminance of the face in the foreground, as compared with the one or more groups of pixels identified in the foreground of the original digitally-acquired still image, since the exposure of the face is compensated/ corrected when there is backlight, thus lightening the areas of the foreground/ face (col. 9, lines 40-60).

13. Claim 85 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 1 are equally applicable to claim 85. Claim 85 distinguishes from claim 1 only in that claim 85 adds the limitation that the process is carried out an the portable digital camera. Takei teaches this feature, i.e. the apparatus is on a video camera (col. 1, lines 11-14).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. Claims 23 and 92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei, as applied to claims 1 and 85 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20040095359 (Simon et al.).

Claims 23 and 92 are rejected for the same reasons as claims 1 and 85, respectively. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claims 1 and

85 are equally applicable to claims 23 and 92. Claims 23 and 92 distinguishes from claims 1 and 85 only in that they automatically provide an option for generating new values. Simon et al teaches further this feature, i.e. providing options to the user for generating new values (fig. 1, step 102 and 104)

Takei and Simon et al are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, i.e. processing facial images.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to automatically provide an option.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide a more user-friendly system by allowing them to access their preferences.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Takei with the option of Simon et al to obtain the invention as specified in claims 23 and 92.

16. Claims 41 and 99 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20010005222 (Yamaguchi).

17. Claims 41 and 99 are rejected for the same reasons as claims 1 and 85. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claims 1 and 85 are equally applicable to claims 41 and 99. Claims 41 and 99 distinguishes from claims 1 and 85 only in that they are CRM claims instead of method claims. Yamaguchi teaches further this feature, i.e. that a method can be embodied on a CRM (col. 4, line 62- col. 5, line 10); particularly a method that involves the adjustment of face data.

Takei and Yamaguchi are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor , i.e. facial image processing.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to embody the method on a CRM.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide a well known, compact and thus user friendly means to carry out the method.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the method of Takei with the CRM of Yamaguchi to obtain the invention as specified in claims 41 and 99.

18. Claims 63 and 106 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Yamaguchi, as applied to claims 41 and 99 above, and further in view of and Simon

19. Claims 63 and 106 are rejected for the same reasons as claims 41 and 99.
Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claims 41 and 99 are equally applicable to claims 63 and 106. Claims 63 and 106 distinguishes from claims 41 and 99 only in that they automatically provide an option for generating new values. Simon et al teaches further this feature, i.e. providing options to the user for generating new values (fig. 1, step 102 and 104).

Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi) and Simon et al are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, i.e. processing facial images.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to automatically provide an option.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide a more user-friendly system by allowing them to access their preferences.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi) with the option of Simon et al to obtain the invention as specified in claims 23 and 92.

20. Claims 2-5, 42-45, 86-89, and 100-103 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Yamaguchi, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4970663 (Bedell et al).

21. Regarding claim 2, Takei discloses all of the claimed elements as set forth above and incorporated herein by reference.

Takei does not disclose expressly (e) gradually displaying a transformation between said original image and the new image.

Yamaguchi discloses when transforming images, displaying the original image (page 3, paragraph 48) and displaying the final image (fig. 11, s234). Thus, Yamaguchi discloses displaying a transformation between these images since both images are displayed.

Takei and Yamaguchi are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, i.e. processing facial images.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to display the transformation between images.

The suggestion/ motivation for doing so would have been to provide a more user-friendly system by allowing the user to review the transformation.

Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi) does not disclose expressly the gradual display of the transformation.

Bedell et al discloses displaying another type of transformation between the images when disclosing that images can be dissolved from one image to another (col. 4, lines 19-20).

Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi) and Bedell et al are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, i.e. manipulating images.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to display a gradual transformation.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide a more user friendly system by allowing the user a pleasing way to view the transformation.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the method of Takei with the display of both images of Yamaguchi and the gradual display of Bedell et al to obtain the invention as specified in claim 2.

22. Regarding claim 3, Takei discloses adjusting parameters, the exposure parameters (col. 9, lines 35-40), of said transformation between the original image and the new image. Bedell discloses other parameters, as seen in the rejection for claim 4, below.

23. Regarding claim 4, Bedell et al discloses that parameters of said transformation between images are being selected from a set of criteria including timing, the number of frames it takes to dissolve and blending, the blending of the frames as one frame dissolves into another (col. 4, lines 21-25).

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24. Regarding claim 5, Bedell et al discloses blending includes dissolving (col. 4, lines 19-20).

25. Claims 42-45 are rejected for the same reasons as claims 2-5, respectively.

Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claims 2-5 are equally applicable to claims 42-45. Claims 42-45 distinguishes from claims 2-5 only in that they have different dependencies, both of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

26. Claims 86-89 are rejected for the same reasons as claims 2-5, respectively.

Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claims 2-5 are equally applicable to claims 86-89. Claims 86-89 distinguishes from claims 2-5 only in that they have different dependencies, both of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

27. Claims 100-103 are rejected for the same reasons as claims 2-5, respectively.

Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claims 2-5 are equally applicable to claims 100-103. Claims 100-103 distinguishes from claims 2-5 only in that they have different dependencies, both of which have been previously rejected.

Therefore, prior art applies.

28. Claims 6 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi and Bedell et al) as applied to claims 5, 45, 89 and 103 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 20030123751 (Krishnamurthy et al).

29. Regarding claim 6, Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi and Bedell et al) discloses all of the claimed elements as set forth above and incorporated herein by reference.

Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi and Bedell et al) does not disclose expressly that the selected portion further comprises a zoom region, and a new image comprising a zoomed image includes the face enlarged by zooming.

Krishnamurthy et al discloses a selected portion, or the region of interest (fig. 2, item 210), further comprises a zoom region, since the region of interest is zoomed in on, (fig. 2, item 240), and a new image comprising a zoomed image includes the face enlarged by the zooming (fig. 2, item 240), since the face is included in the region of interest (pg. 1, pp. 0009).

Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi and Bedell et al) and Krishnamurthy et al are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, i.e. facial image processing.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the capability of zooming in on the face.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been more robust system by allowing images to be taken from far away.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi and Bedell et al) with the zooming of Krishnamurthy et al to obtain the invention as specified in claim 6.

30. Claim 46 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 6. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 6 are equally applicable to claim 46. Claim 6 distinguishes from claim 46 only in that they have different dependencies, both of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

31. Claim 90 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Yamaguchi and Bedell et al, as applied to claim 89 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No.6246779 (Fukui et al).

Regarding claim 90, Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi and Bedell et al) discloses all of the claimed elements as set forth above, and incorporated herein by reference.

Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi and Bedell et al) does not disclose expressly determining a point of rotation and an amount of rotation after which another image is automatically generated including a rotated version of the face.

Fukui et al discloses determining a point of rotation, a rotation pivot point (col. 7, line 31) and an amount of rotation theta (col. 7, line 40) after which another image is automatically generated including a rotated, transformed version of the face (col. 7, lines 41- col. 8, line 4).

Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi and Bedell et al) and Fukui et al are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, i.e. facial image processing.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to rotate the face.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide a more user-friendly system by providing a means to obtain a normalized version of the face which can be used in more effectively in many applications such as image matching, or simply be used as a better fit to the display.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the method of Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi and Bedell et al) with the rotation of Fukui et al to obtain the invention as specified in claim 90.

32. Claim 104 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Yamaguchi, and further in view of Fukui.

Regarding claim 104, Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi) discloses all of the claimed elements as set forth above, and incorporated herein by reference.

Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi) does not disclose expressly determining a point of rotation and an amount of rotation such that the generating of the values of the pixels automatically generates a new image including a rotated version of the face by rotating the image about said point of rotation by said amount of rotation.

Fukui et al discloses a step of determining a point of rotation, a rotation pivot point (col. 7, line 31) and an amount of rotation theta (col. 7, line 40) such that the generating of the values of the pixels automatically generates a new image, a transformed version of the face, including a rotated version of the face by rotating the image about said point of rotation by said amount of rotation (col. 7, lines 41- col. 8, line 4).

Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi) and Fukui et al are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, i.e. facial image processing.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to rotate the face.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide a more user-friendly system by providing a means to obtain a normalized version of the face which can be used in more effectively in many applications such as image matching, or simply be used as a better fit to the display.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the method of Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi) with the rotation of Fukui et al to obtain the invention as specified in claim 90.

33. Claims 7, 11, 47 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei (in view of Yamaguchi, Bedell et al, and Krishnamurthy et al) and further in view of Fukui.

34. Claims 7 and 47 are rejected for the same reasons as claim 90. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 90 are equally applicable to claims 7 and 47. Claims 7 and 47 distinguish from claim 90 only in that they have different dependencies, all of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

35. Claims 11 and 51 are rejected for the same reasons as claim 104. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 104 are equally applicable to claims 11 and 51. Claims 11 and 51 distinguish from claim 104 only in that they have different dependencies, all of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

36. Claim 81 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Krishnamurthy.

37. Takei discloses all of the claimed elements as set forth above and incorporated herein by reference.

Takei does not disclose expressly the one or more new still images comprise a plurality of new still images; Takei only adjusts the one image regarding the facial exposure.

Krishnamurthy et al discloses another new image that can be generated from a selected portion, or the region of interest (fig. 2, item 210), comprising a zoom region, since the region of interest is zoomed in on, (fig. 2, item 240), and a new image comprising a zoomed image includes the face enlarged by the zooming (fig. 2, item 240), since the face is included in the region of interest (pg. 1, pp. 0009). With the additional zooming of Krishnamurthy, a plurality of images are generated.

Takei and Krishnamurthy et al are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, i.e. facial image processing.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the capability of zooming in on the face in addition to exposure compensation.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been more robust system by allowing images to be taken from far away.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the method of exposure compensation of Takei with the zooming of Krishnamurthy to obtain the invention as claimed in claim 81.

38. Claim 82 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Simon, as applied to claim 23 above, and further in view of Krishnamurthy et al. Claim 82 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 81. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 81 are equally applicable to claim 82. Claim 82 distinguishes from claim 81 only in that they have different dependencies, both of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

39. Claim 83 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Yamaguchi, as applied to claim 41 above, and further in view of Krishnamurthy et al. Claim 83 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 81. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 81 are equally applicable to claim 83. Claim 83 distinguishes from claim 81 only in that they have different dependencies, both of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

40. Claims 84 and 112 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Yamaguchi and Simon, as applied to claim 63 above, and further in view of Krishnamurthy et al.

Claims 84 and 112 are rejected for the same reasons as claim 81. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 81 are equally applicable to claims 84 and 112. Claims 84 and 112 distinguishes from claim 81 only in that they have different dependencies, both of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

41. Claim 105 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Yamaguchi, as applied to claim 99 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20030142209 (Yamazaki et al). Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi) all of the claimed elements as set forth above and incorporated herein by reference.

Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi) does not disclose expressly generating a panning sequence comprising a sequence of at least two of the original image and the one or more new images.

Yamazaki et al discloses generating of the values by generating one or more new images (fig. 2, items 3-3 to 3-5) each including a new group of pixels corresponding to the face, the face being shown in fig. 2, items 3-3 to 3-5 and the new group of pixels being the changes in the face in the new images, and further comprising the step of generating a panning sequence (pg. 2, pp. 21) which keeps the object of interest in the center, comprising a sequence of at least two of the original images (fig. 3, items 3-2 to 3-3) and the one or more new images (fig. 3-4).

Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi) and Yamazaki et al are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, i.e. facial image processing.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to pan in new images.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide a more user-friendly system by automatically following an object of interest instead of manually following, and to increase speed by following the object instead of asking the user to find the object when it moves.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the method of Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi) with Yamazaki et al to obtain the invention as specified in claim 105.

42. Claim 91 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Yamaguchi and Bedell et al, and further in view of Yamazaki et al.

Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi and Bedell et al) discloses all of the claimed elements as set forth above and incorporated herein by reference.

Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi and Bedell et al) does not disclose expressly (g) determining one or more further new images each including a new group of pixels corresponding to the face; and (h) automatically panning using the one or more further new images.

Yamazaki et al discloses determining one or more further new images each including a new group of pixels corresponding to the face by obtaining more images

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over time that include the face (fig. 3, item 3-3 to 3-5). And automatically panning using one or more further new images, as can be seen in items 3.3 to 3.5, since the person moves and the camera keeps the person in the center, thus panning (pg. 2, pp. 21).

Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi and Bedell et al) and Yamazaki et al are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, i.e. facial image processing.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to pan in new images.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide a more user-friendly system by automatically following an object of interest instead of manually following, and to increase speed by following the object instead of asking the user to find the object when it moves.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the method of Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi and Bedell et al) with Yamazaki et al to obtain the invention as specified in claim 91.

43. Claims 8, 9, 14-15, 48, 49, 54 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei, Yamaguchi, Bedell and Krishnamurthy and further in view of Yamazaki et al.

44. Claims 8 and 14 are rejected for the same reasons as claims 91 and 105, respectively. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claims 91 and 105 are equally applicable to claims 8 and 14. Claims 8 and 14 distinguish from claims

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91 and 105 only in that they have different dependencies, both of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

45. Claims 48 and 54 are rejected for the same reasons as claims 91 and 105, respectively. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claims 91 and 105 are equally applicable to claims 48 and 54. Claims 48 and 54 distinguish from claims 91 and 105 only in that they have different dependencies, both of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

46. Regarding claim 9, Yamazaki et al discloses each of the one or more further new images including pixels corresponding to features different from at least one other image of the one or more further new images, such features being the differences in the image from movement, such as the movement of the door and the pixels corresponding to the movement (fig. 3, items 3-2 to 3-5).

47. Claims 15, 49, and 55 are rejected for the same reasons as claim 9. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 9 are equally applicable to claims 15, 49, and 55. Claims 15, 49, and 55 distinguish from claim 9 only in that they have different dependencies, all of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

48. Claims 10, 12, 13, 50, 52 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi, Bedell et al and Krishnamurthy) and further in view of Yamazaki, as applied to claims 8 and 48 and Fukui et al, as applied to claims 11 and 51.

Regarding claim 10, Takei (as modified by of Yamaguchi, Bedell et al, Krishnamurthy and Yamazaki) discloses all of the claimed elements as set forth above, and incorporated herein by reference.

Takei (as modified by of Yamaguchi, Bedell et al, Krishnamurthy and Yamazaki) does not disclose expressly determining a point of rotation and an amount of rotation after which another image is automatically generated including a rotated version of the face.

Fukui et al discloses determining a point of rotation, a rotation pivot point (col. 7, line 31) and an amount of rotation theta (col. 7, line 40) after which another image is automatically generated including a rotated, transformed version of the face (col. 7, lines 41- col. 8, line 4).

Takei (as modified by of Yamaguchi, Bedell et al, Krishnamurthy and Yamazaki) and Fukui et al are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, i.e. facial image processing.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to rotate the face.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide a more user-friendly system by providing a means to obtain a normalized version of the face which can be used in more effectively in many applications such as image matching, or simply be used as a better fit to the display.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the method of Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi, Bedell et al, Krishnamurthy and Yamazaki) with Fukui et al to obtain the invention as specified in claim 10.

49. Claim 50 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 10. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 10 are equally applicable to claim 50. Claim 50 distinguishes from claim 10 only in that they have different dependencies, both of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

50. Regarding claim 12, Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi, Bedell, Krishnamurthy and Fukui) discloses all of the claimed elements as set forth above, and incorporated herein by reference. Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi, Bedell, Krishnamurthy and Fukui) does not disclose expressly (d) determining one or more further new images each including a new group of pixels corresponding to the face; and (e) automatically panning using the one or more further new images. Yamazaki et al discloses determining one or more further new images each including a new group of pixels corresponding to the face by obtaining more images over time that include the face (fig. 3, item 3-3 to 3-5). And automatically panning using one or more further new images, as can be seen in items 3.3 to 3.5, since the person moves and the camera keeps the person in the center, thus panning (pg. 2, pp. 21). Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi, Bedell, Krishnamurthy and Fukui) and Yamazaki et al are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, i.e. facial image processing. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to pan in new images. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide a more

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user-friendly system by automatically following an object of interest instead of manually following, and to increase speed by following the object instead of asking the user to find the object when it moves. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the method of Takei (as modified by Yamaguchi, Bedell, Krishnamurthy and Fukui) with Yamazaki et al to obtain the invention as specified in claim 12.

51. Claim 52 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 12. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 12 are equally applicable to claim 52.

Claim 52 distinguishes from claim 10 only in that they have different dependencies, both of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

52. Claims 13 and 53 are rejected for the same reasons as claim 9. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 9 are equally applicable to claims 13 and 53. Claim 13 and 53 distinguish from claim 9 only in that they have different dependencies, all of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

53. Claims 32, 33, and 98 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Simon, as applied to claims 23 and 92 above, and further in view of Yamazaki et al.

54. Claims 32 and 98 are rejected for the same reasons as claim 14. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 14 are equally applicable to claims 32 and 98. Claims 32 and 98 distinguish from claim 14 only in that claims 32

and 98 provide options for continuing processing. Simon teaches further this feature, as discussed above.

55. Claim 33 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 9. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 9 are equally applicable to claim 33. Claim 33 distinguishes from claim 9 only in that they have different dependencies, all of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

56. Claims 72, 73, 110 and 111 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Yamaguchi and Simon, as applied to claims 63 and 101 above, and further in view of Yamazaki et al.

57. Claims 72 and 110 are rejected for the same reasons as claim 14. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 14 are equally applicable to claims 72 and 110. Claims 72 and 110 distinguish from claim 14 only in that claims 72 and 110 provide options for continuing processing. Simon teaches further this feature, as discussed above.

58. Claims 73 and 111 are rejected for the same reasons as claim 9. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 9 are equally applicable to claims 73 and 111. Claims 73 and 111 distinguish from claim only in that they have different dependencies, all of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

59. Claims 29 and 96 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei (as modified by Simon), as applied to claims 23 and 92 above, and further in view of Fukui.

60. Claims 29 and 96 are rejected for the same reasons as claim 11. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 11 are equally applicable to claims 29 and 96. Claims 29 and 96 distinguishes from claim 11 only in that claims 29 and 96 provide an option to generate a new image. Simon teaches further this feature, as discussed above.

61. Claims 69 and 107 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Yamaguchi and Simon, as applied to claims 63 and 101 above, and further in view of Fukui.

62. Claims 69 and 107 are rejected for the same reasons as claim 11. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 11 are equally applicable to claims 69 and 107. Claims 69 and 107 distinguishes from claim 11 only in that claims 69 and 107 provide an option to generate a new image. Simon teaches further this feature, as discussed above.

63. Claims 30-31 and 97 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Simon and Fukui, as applied to claims 23 and 92 above, and further in view of Yamazaki et al.

64. Claims 30 and 97 are rejected for the same reasons as claim 12. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 12 are equally applicable to

claims 30 and 97. Claims 30 and 97distinguishes from claim 12 only in that claims 30 and 97 provide options for continuing processing. Simon teaches further this feature, as discussed above.

65. Claim 31 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 9. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 9 are equally applicable to claim 31. Claim 31 distinguishes from claim 9 only in that they have different dependencies, all of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

66. Claims 70-71 and 108-109 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Yamaguchi and Simon, as applied to claims 63 and 101 above, and further in view of Yamazaki et al.

67. Claims 70 and 108 are rejected for the same reasons as claim 12. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 12 are equally applicable to claims 70 and 108. Claims 70 and 108distinguishes from claim 12 only in that claims 70 and 108 provide options for continuing processing. Simon teaches further this feature, as discussed above.

68. Claims 71 and 109 are rejected for the same reasons as claim 9. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 9 are equally applicable to claims 71 and 109. Claims 71 and 109 distinguish from claim 9 only in that they have different dependencies, all of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

69. Claims 24 and 93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Simon, as applied to claims 23 and 92 above, and further in view of Krishnamurthy et al.

70. Claims 24 and 93 are rejected for the same reasons as claim 6. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 6 are equally applicable to claims 24 and 93. Claims 24 and 93 distinguish from claim 6 only in that they have different dependencies, both of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

71. Claim 64 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Yamaguchi and Simon, as applied to claim 63 above, and further in view of Krishnamurthy et al.

72. Claim 64 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 6. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 6 are equally applicable to claim 64. Claim 64 distinguishes from claim 6 only in that they have different dependencies, both of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

73. Claims 25 and 94 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Simon and Krishnamurthy, as applied to claims 24 and 93 above, and further in view of Fukui.

74. Claims 25 and 94 are rejected for the same reasons as claim 7. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 7 are equally applicable to claims 25 and 94. Claims 25 and 94 distinguish from claim 7 only in that they have different dependencies, both of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

75. Claim 65 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Yamaguchi, Simon and Krishnamurthy, as applied to claim 64 above, and further in view of Fukui.

76. Claim 65 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 7. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 7 are equally applicable to claim 65. Claim 65 distinguishes from claim 7 only in that they have different dependencies, both of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

77. Claims 26, 27 and 95 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Simon and Krishnamurthy, as applied to claims 24 and 93 above, and further in view of Yamazaki et al.

78. Claims 26 and 95 are rejected for the same reasons as claim 8. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 8 are equally applicable to claims 26 and 95. Claims 26 and 95 distinguishes from claim 8 only in that claims 26

and 95 provide options for continuing processing. Simon teaches further this feature, as discussed above.

79. Claim 27 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 9. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 9 are equally applicable to claim 27. Claim 27 distinguishes from claim 9 only in that they have different dependencies, all of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

80. Claims 66 and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei in view of Yamaguchi, Simon and Krishnamurthy, as applied to claims 64 above, and further in view of Yamazaki et al.

81. Claim 66 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 8. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 8 are equally applicable to claim 66. Claim 66 distinguishes from claim 8 only in that claim 66 provides options for continuing processing. Simon teaches further this feature, as discussed above.

82. Claim 67 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 9. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 9 are equally applicable to claim 67. Claim 67 distinguishes from claim 9 only in that they have different dependencies, all of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

83. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei, Simon, Krishnamurthy and Yamazaki as applied to claim 26 above, and further in view of Fukui.

84. Claim 28 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 10. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 10 are equally applicable to claim 28. Claim 28 distinguishes from claim 10 only in that they have different dependencies, all of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

85. Claim 68 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takei, Yamaguchi, Simon, Krishnamurthy and Yamazaki as applied to claims 26 and 66 above, and further in view of Fukui.

86. Claim 68 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 10. Thus, the arguments analogous to that presented above for claim 10 are equally applicable to claim 68. Claim 68 distinguishes from claim 10 only in that they have different dependencies, all of which have been previously rejected. Therefore, prior art applies.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KATHLEEN S. YUAN whose telephone number is (571)272-2902. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursdays, 9 AM to 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Werner can be reached on (571)272-7401. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/KY/
6/11/2009

/Aaron W Carter/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624